

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Inventor(s):** Robert Daniel Maher, III et al.

**Case No.:** NR-8

**Serial No.:** 09/832,670

**Group Art Unit:** 2154

**Filing Date:** April 11, 2001

**Title:** POLICY GATEWAY

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

**SIR:**

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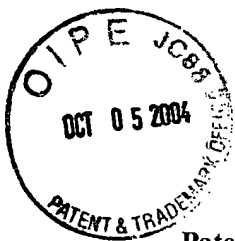
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Carrie Wrich, Legal Secretary



IN THE UNITED STATES  
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2154  
JFW

Patent Application

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Examiner: Patel, A

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SIR:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action of July 15, 2004, Applicant would request reconsideration in view of the following remarks:

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully appreciates the indication of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner, but would respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the rejected subject matter in view of the following remarks:

Claims 1,3-5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Lin (U.S. 6,542,508).

Lin describes an apparatus for providing a way to bind policy decisions made using a separate policy application to the appropriate flow in a network. The policy engine 106 provides packets to the policy application 102. (col. 3, lines 1-4) The policy application then uses its policy database 202 to determine the actions to be applied to that flow based on its policy determinations. (col. 4, lines 55-63) Those actions are then sent to the policy engine and stored in a policy cache 209 to be applied to the remaining packets in that flow. (col. 4, lines 63-65) Lin explicitly states that the flow classification, or determining of actions to apply to a flow based on policies, is not appropriate for hardware and must be done by a policy application with its policy database residing on a separate server from the policy engine. (col. 2, lines 1-10, and col.

Netrake Corporation  
3000 Technology Drive  
Suite 100  
Plano, Texas 75074  
(214) 291-1051